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It is inevitable that the reader should compare the long and somewhat spiritless introduction with the brilliant performances of the late F. W. MAITLAND which were so distinctive a feature of the first volumes of this series. Mr. TURNER has had access to two additional manuscripts and other materials for textual criticism. In consequence he devotes one section of his introduction to a consideration of the various manuscripts and their owners, this discussion applying to the whole series. This research, which must have involved considerable labour, was undertaken with the idea of throwing new light on the purposes for which the Year Books were compiled through the discovery of the particular persons who owned the early copies. Unfortunately this inquiry produces no definite results, though new evidence is brought forward. This leads Mr. TURNER to raise again the much debated question of the origin of the Year Books. Against the general acceptance of MAITLAND's theory that the Year Books were not official reports, the learned writer urges that it be remembered that MAITLAND expressly stated that his opinion related to the earliest period and that he refused to speak definitely "of an age he had not observed." Mr. TURNER seeks to study the origin of these books in the light of their later history. We must confess to some surprise when Mr. TURNER argues sympathetically for a reconsideration of the tradition to which *Plowden* refers in the prologue to his reports. (ed. of 1578.) The fact that it was accepted by COKE, BACON, and BLACKSTONE will not carry much weight with those who are familiar with the historical vagaries of those writers. It must be admitted that a more careful study of the later Year Books may lead to the conclusion that they were official. The character of the reports in the present volume, however, seems to us to corroborate MAITLAND's theory. Surely if a line is to be drawn between the Year Books as students' note books and as official reports, those of the reign of Edward II must fall in the first category. We feel on that account that the editor's theory is somewhat premature.

W. T. B.

BARTOLUS ON THE CONFLICT OF LAWS, translated into English by Joseph Henry Beale, Royall Professor of Law in Harvard University, Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1914. Pp. 86.

That portion of *BARTOLUS'S COMMENTARY ON THE CODE* bearing upon the conflict of laws was reprinted as an appendix to GUTHRIE's translation of SAVIGNY'S *PRIVATE INTERNATIONAL LAW* (second edition, 1880). Professor BEALE has made the first English translation of this text. In so far as comparison has been made with the Latin text the translation seems to be faithful and accurate and withal extremely readable. Notwithstanding Mr. BEALE's modest self-appraisal as a latinist, he has managed to give a rendering which is full of life and spirit and in a tone of friendly informality. Such an endeavor is well worthy of the form in which it appears; the type is clear, the paper beautiful, and the book is adorned with a portrait of *BARTOLUS* and an interesting reproduction of an old print showing the great master holding a class at Pisa or Perugia. To judge from this picture *BARTOLUS*

had that inspiration which comes from a small class of mature students, although it is well known that crowds flocked to his lectures. Professor BEALE is to be thanked for making at least a part of BARTOLUS really available.
J. S. R.

EWELL'S ELEMENTARY LAW, 2nd Ed. Vol. 2, by Marshall D. Ewell. Albany. Matthew Bender & Company, 1915. pp. xvi, 1037.

This is the second and concluding volume of the Essentials of the Law which the author has prepared for the use of students at law. The first volume was reviewed in 13 MICHIGAN LAW REVIEW, p. 532. The second volume is to a considerable extent a condensation of texts in the various subjects, covering the essential parts of agency, contracts, corporations, equity (including pleading and procedure), evidence, negotiable instruments, partnership, common law pleading, and torts.

It is evidently the aim of the author to give to students just a taste of the principal subjects of the law; and, for students who are seeking that, these two volumes present the matter in a very compact and readable form. It is difficult, however, to see how there can be any use for such a book in a good law school. The 102 pages on agency is abridged and bare enough, but 64 pages on the great subject of contracts, part of this devoted to principal and agent which has already been treated, is scarcely enough to be of use even to a reader. Of course the other topics treated contain much on contracts. Corporations is disposed of in about 60 pages, equity (including procedure) claims about 160 pages, evidence 150, but bills and notes is covered in less than 40 pages. It is to be hoped that no one preparing for the practice of the law will content himself with so limited a treatment of any of the subjects, and if he is to take a more thorough training it is hardly necessary for him to spend time on this abridgement. There are, however, many who read law for other purposes and the book may be very useful to them.

E. C. G.